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United States Senate

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June 19, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Bush,

I am writing in response to your press conference on Wednesday regarding energy exploration.

First, let me thank you for your leadership in calling for more domestic exploration. It is absolutely essential that our nation move forward aggressively in energy exploration, and it is simply foolish that we have not done more sooner. I am particularly disappointed that Congress has refused to allow for more exploration on federal lands, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

With respect to the OCS, I would urge you not to wait for Congress to act. As you know, Congress has repeatedly failed to address the rising costs of energy or to make America more energy independent. Even with gas prices surpassing \$4 a gallon, Washington politicians stubbornly refuse to address this issue because they are beholden to radical special interest groups that believe higher gas prices are a good thing.

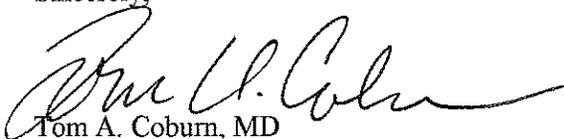
I, therefore, call on you to immediately rescind the Presidential Executive Order restricting further leasing of offshore oil drilling. It has been in place for nearly twenty years, and the time has come for it to end. American consumers and businesses cannot afford to wait any longer.

In your remarks, you said, "When Congress lifts the legislative ban, I will lift the executive prohibition." I am working aggressively to help you accomplish the lifting of the legislative ban, but these times demand Presidential leadership. By doing the right thing, you will demonstrate to the American people conclusively what many already suspect—Congress is the problem. If you take the first step, I am hopeful the American people will demand that Congress follow your lead.

I am hopeful you will take this action immediately. Americans deserve American energy.

I thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Tom A. Coburn, MD
United States Senator